

Filed for intro on 01/19/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 535

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Angelo Volpe,
President of Tennessee Technological
University, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Angelo Volpe is one such remarkable public servant who is deserving of the special commendation of this body; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Volpe will retire as the seventh president of Tennessee Technological University on July 1, 2000, thus completing 13 years of distinguished service as the University's president, the longest tenure of any president at a public university in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born in Brooklyn, New York to Bernard and Serafina Volpe, Dr. Johnson earned his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Brooklyn College, a part of the City

University of New York, his Master's Degree and Ph.D. in Organic and Polymer Chemistry from the University of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Volpe served from 1961-66 at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory as a Civilian Research Scientist. Beginning in 1966, Dr. Volpe taught for eleven years at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, where he shared his knowledge with students, first as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, then as an Associate Professor of Chemistry and finally becoming a Full Professor of Chemistry his final three years there; and

WHEREAS, from 1977-80, Dr. Volpe taught at East Carolina University as a Professor of Chemistry as well as handling all of the department's administrative duties as Chairperson of the Chemistry Department. From 1980-83, he was named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at ECU; while maintaining a rigorous schedule, he still found time to teach Chemistry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Volpe's skills as an administrator and professor landed him the prestigious position of Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at East Carolina University from 1983-87, prior to coming to Tennessee Tech; and

WHEREAS, during his 13 years at Tennessee Technological University, Dr. Volpe also served adroitly as a morale booster, a fundraiser, and friend to the students, faculty, and staff. It has been said, "He has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues here and across the state who say they will miss his spirited presence on campus..."; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Technological University is a better place as a result of Dr. Volpe's influence: fundraising increased from \$1 million in 1988 to currently over \$25 million, new undergraduate degree programs have been developed, a new state-of-the-art library, recreation center, and agricultural pavilion have been built, and enrollment has increased. Two Chairs of Excellence, the Leona Lusk Officer Black Cultural Center, and the Women's Center were created during his tenure. Volpe's contribution to outreach efforts helped make possible a virtual embrace of a then-Soviet university through the Citizen Exchange Council as well as

continued ties to another “sister” school, Dohto University in Japan. TTU has recently completed arrangements to welcome a new “sister” university, the Lower Silesian University College of Education in Poland; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure at Tech, the third longest-serving TTU president has seen the University’s scores on the Tennessee Board of Regents’ “Report Card” flourish: Student Satisfaction: 94% reported a rating of very satisfied or satisfied with their education at TTU; Alumni Satisfaction: 93% of those responding rated the University as very satisfied or satisfied; External Peer Review: 83% of Tech’s undergraduate programs evaluated met at least 90% of the established standards, while the Tennessee Board of Regents’ average was 70%; and Graduation Rates showed that 50% of TTU students graduate within 6 years, where the TBR average for universities is 42%; and

WHEREAS, this success, under Dr. Volpe’s astute leadership, is exemplified in the 1999-2000 issue of U.S. News and World Report; in its annual survey of American universities and colleges, Tennessee Tech was named one of the top regional universities in the South, the only public Tennessee institution to be ranked in the top tier of Southern colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Angelo Volpe is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his lovely wife of 34 years, Jennette Murray Volpe. He and his wife plan to continue living in Cookeville after his retirement, with plans to travel, read, volunteer for community activities, and take part in his favorite past time, baseball, specifically New York Yankees baseball; and

WHEREAS, he is the perfect example of a person totally committed to family and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. Angelo Volpe for his 13 years of meritorious service as president of Tennessee Technological University, extending to him our

heartfelt thanks for his august service to the faculty, staff, alumni, and students of that fine institution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.